

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 OIC-02 PM-04 SS-15
NSC-05 ACDA-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /054 R

DRAFTED BY AF/I:LSHURTLEFF/LTCFWIRKUS:AB
APPROVED BY AF:WSCHAUFLE
AF/I:WLEWIS
AF/C:EMARKS (DRAFT)
EUR/RPM:TMSAVAGE

-----220159Z 032061 /63

O P 220134Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063028

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, PINS, GC

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REQUEST ON ZAIRE SITUATION

REF: USNATO 1574 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING INTENDED FOR YOUR USE IN DISCUSSION AT
MARCH 22 PERMREPS LUNCHEON. TALKING POINTS FOLLOW IN
SEPTEL. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN EMBASSY
KINSHASA SITREPS, ALL OF WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FROM EMBASSY
BRUSSELS.

2. DIPLOMATIC FRONT: LAST WEEK, GOZ APPROACHED US SEEKING
OUR VIEWS ON ADVISABILITY REQUESTING OAU INVESTIGATION OF
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SHABA SITUATION. SPECIFICALLY, GOZ CONSIDERED REQUESTING
OAU TO SEND INVESTIGATING TEAM TO SHABA TO A) VERIFY GOZ
CHARGES OF ARMED AGGRESSION FROM ANGOLA, AND B) CONTROL
FLOW OF MEN AND SUPPLIES ACROSS BORDER. WE REPLIED THAT,
IN OUR VIEW, GOZ PLA; OF ACTION WAS SENSIBLE AND SHOULD BE
TRIED BEFORE GOZ APPROACHED UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

3. THIS PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION WAS, HOWEVER, OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. ON MARCH 18, ZAIRE ASKED NIGERIA TO ATTEMPT MEDIATION ROLE AND NIGERIA ACCEPTED THIS OFFER. FOR OUR PART, WE ARE TELLING BOTH NIGERIA AND ZAIRE THAT WE SUPPORT NIGERIAN INVOLVEMENT IN AN ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE AFRICAN SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS. NIGERIAN FORNMIN GARBA IS MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN WASHINGTON TODAY TO DISCUSS ZAIRE SITUATION. NIGERIA HAS ALSO DISPATCHED AN ENVOY TO LUANDA FOR DIRECT CONTACTS WITH ANGOLAN OFFICIALS (SEE STATE 062055 AND PREVIOUS AVAILABLE FROM EMBASSY BRUSSELS FOR DETAILS.) NIGERIAN ROLE HAS NOT AND SHOULD NOT BECOME PUBLIC YET.

4. US MATERIAL ASSISTANCE: AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOZ, THE US IS PROVIDING SOME MILITARY ITEMS OTHER THAN ARMS AND MUNITIONS TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR CURRENT CRISIS. A CHARTERED SEABOARD WORLD AIRWAYS DC-8 DEPARTED DOVER AFB MARCH 15 WITH APPROXIMATELY 35 TONS OF RATIONS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, INDIVIDUAL ITEMS OF CLOTHING (PACKS, UNIFORMS, BELTS, BOOTS, ETC.) AND PORTABLE FUEL BLADDERS. ON MARCH 21 A SECOND CHARTERED SEABOARD AIRCRAFT (747) WILL DEPART FOR ZAIRE WITH APPROXIMATELY 90 TONS OF MILITARY MATERIEL, COMPOSED OF C-130 SPARE PARTS, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, MORE RATIONS AND ITEMS OF CLOTHING, PARACHUTES, AND PATROL CRAFT SPARE PARTS. BOTH THE SPARE PARTS FOR THE C-130'S AND PATROL CRAFT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ORDERED UNDER EXISTING FMS CASES. THESE TWO AIRCRAFT LOADS COMPRISE THE US RESPONSE TO THE GOZ REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. ADDITIONALLY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED FOLLOW-ON AMMUNITION, VEHICLE AND COMMUNICATIONS SPARE PARTS, ALL OF CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH WILL BE TO SUPPORT LIGHT WEAPONS, TRUCKS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT ALREADY PROVIDED TO GOZ UNDER PAST FMS CASES. THIS REQUEST IS PRESENTLY UNDER REVIEW HERE IN WASHINGTON.

5. POLITICAL SITUATION: WE ARE REPEATING FOR USNATO INFO KINSHASA 2321 WHICH CONTAINS EMBASSY'S ANALYTICAL REPORT ON POLITICAL FACTORS INVOLVED IN ZAIRE CRISIS.

6. FOR KINSHASA: PLEASE INCLUDE USNATO AS INFO ADDRESSEE ON ALL FUTURE SITREPS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, TEXT, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE063028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LSHURTLEFF/LTCFWIRKUS:AB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770097-0066
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770334/aaaabdpl.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 86e134b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3033766
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFORMATION REQUEST ON ZAIRE SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, US, CG, NATO
To: NATO BRUSSELS KINSHASA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/86e134b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009